

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 00851 220658Z
ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAL-01 /129 W

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R 190847Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4853
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 0851

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y DELETE REF:LINE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, EWWT, JA

SUBJECT: MALACCA STRAITS TRANSIT

1. JAPANESE SEEM TO BE REACTING CALMLY TO REPORTS OF
EMERGENT CONSENSUS AMONG MALACCA STRAITS COUNTRIES ON
MINIMUM 3.5-METER UNDER-KEEL CLEARANCE (UKC) AND
PARTIAL TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME (TSS) IN STRAITS.
A FONOFF OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT TRANSPORT MINISTRY
ELDER STATESMAN HISAMI TERAJ HAD COUNSELED, AFTER
HIS RETURN FROM VISITS TO JAKARTA, KUALA LUMPUR AND
SINGAPORE LAST SEPTEMBER, THAT HARDLINE JAPANESE
POSITION NO LONGER FEASIBLE IN VIEW OF OTHER
USERS' INTEREST IN REACHING PRACTICAL ACCOMMODATION
EVIDENTLY IN RESPONSE, GOJ SEEMS TO HAVE SWUNG OVER TO
VIEW THAT 3.5-METER UKC IS PROBABLY BEST OUTCOME
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IT CAN OBTAIN AND IS NOW CONCENTRATING EFFORT ON
PERSUADING STRAITS STATES TO IMPLEMENT RESTRICTIONS
IN FASHIO LEAST PAINFUL TO JAPAN.

2. JAPANESE ARE SAID BY SEVERAL SOURCES TO BE TRYING TO SELL TWO
PROPOSITIONS IN PARTICULAR TO STRAITS STATES.
FIRST, THEY ARGUE THAT PHASE-IN PERIOD OF 3.5-METER

UKC SHOULD BE EIGHT YEARS. THIS IS BASED ON NOTION
THAT NORMAL "LIFE" OF SUPERTANKER IS TEN YEARS
BUT THAT SINCE LATE-73 OIL CRISIS VERY FEW (OR NONE)
OF LARGEST VESSELS HAVE BEEN BUILT FOR JAPANESE
FLEET. SECOND, JAPANESE HOPE TO PERSUADE GOS TO
AGREE TO DESIGNATE INSHORE, 23-METER CHANNEL FOR
SUPERTANKER USE. SINGAPOREANS ARE SAID TO WISH TO
RESERVE INSHORE WATERS, UNDER TSS, FOR LOCAL SHIPPING
AND TO PUT INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING IN 21-METER
WATERS FURTHER OFFSHORE. IF THIS DONE, ACCORDING
TO ANOTHER FONOFF OFFICIAL, CONCURRENT ADOPTION OF
3.5-METER UKC WOULD BE "UNACCEPTABLE."
HODGSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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